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1925 November 6, 1903

Cases of yellow fever in Dewitt County.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., October 27, 1903.

Sir: I have the honor to inform you that, as stated in my telegram of yesterday, the yellow fever seen by Doctor Tabor and myself in Dewitt County, near Cuero, can be quite certainly traced to Laredo.

The house in which these cases have all occurred is located on a ranch about 11 miles north of Cuero and the railroad, nearly 2 miles from any other habitation, and about the same distance from the public road.

On September 21 a Mr. A., who had been employed in Laredo, left that place for Cuero, going directly to the house in question and arriving there about September 25. It will be recalled that the former date is only a day or so in advance of the official declaration of the fever at Laredo.

On September 25 Mr. A. was taken sick. He was not seen by any physician, but was prescribed for over the telephone, his case being diagnosticated, from the symptoms given, as dengue fever. He made an uneventful recovery and left the ranch soon after.

On October 13, or eighteen days after Mr. A's. being taken sick, Mrs. B. became ill. She was seen and treated by a physician, her case

being at first considered a severe one of dengue.

On October 16 Mr. B. was taken with the same disease. His case from the first excited the suspicion of the attending physician, and during the course of the disease not a symptom of yellow fever was wanting. He died with black vomit and suppression of urine on the morning of October 26.

During the night of October 25 Mrs. C. was taken sick with the same

symptoms that had characterized the other three cases.

Doctor Tabor and myself arrived on the ranch the afternoon of the 26th. Mrs. B. was considered by us both and by the attending physician, Doctor Reuss, as convalescing from yellow fever, and Mrs. C. the first day of the disease.

Several stegomyiæ were seen in the house, one in particular being

caught in Mrs. B.'s sick room.

A necropsy was held on the body of Mr. B. about eight hours after death. The appearance of the cadaver and the necropsic findings were absolutely typical and conclusive.

These cases, I think, isolated as they were on this ranch, present a very conclusive example of the period of extrinsic incubation of the disease, and for that reason I have reported them in detail.

Respectfully,

T. F. RICHARDSON, Assistant Surgeon.

The Surgeon-General.

Inspection at Houston and Beaumont, October 24–27, 1903, by Dr. C. L. Horton, medical inspector.

NEW ORLEANS, October 27, 1903.

DEAR DOCTOR: As requested by you, I left on the 9 o'clock train Saturday night, October 24, for Houston, Tex., thence to Beaumont to ascertain if the health authorities there were requiring passengers from western Texas to swear that they have not been within the last five days in any place infected with yellow fever.

I arrived at Houston about 10 o'clock Sunday morning. I at once

proceeded to the office of the city health officer, Doctor Brumby.